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The China Inland Mission.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES,
ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT,
BRANCHES, ETC.

NEWINGTON GREEN, LONDON, N.

1899.

The China Inland Mission.

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The China Inland Mission was formed by the Rev. J. Hudson Taylor, in the year 1865. Eleven of the vast Inland Provinces had then *no* Protestant missionary, the missionaries of that day being almost entirely located in ten or eleven of the Treaty ports on the seaboard. Over 200 millions of souls in the Interior were thus perishing hopelessly in their sins, without any knowledge of the Gospel.

Arriving in China as a medical missionary, in the year 1854, Mr. Hudson Taylor had eventually settled in the seaboard province of Cheh-kiang, from whence, six years later, he was invalided home. Gazing daily on a large map of China, the overwhelming needs of the Interior were burned in upon his soul. After a prolonged period of spiritual agony he was at length enabled to surrender himself to God as

an instrument for the sending forth of new workers to carry the Gospel to Inland China. The prayer then offered for 24 fellow-workers, two for each of the unoccupied provinces, and two for Mongolia, was answered, and next year, in May, 1866, the first party of C.I.M. missionaries sailed for China.

China and the Chinese. The Chinese Empire is colossal in size. Including the dependencies of Tibet, Mongolia, &c., it is larger than Europe and accounts for not less than one-tenth of the habitable globe. It occupies, moreover, a striking position geographically—one which has fostered an intensely exclusive spirit in the people, and largely shaped their history and development. Situated on the distant shores of the Pacific, and separated from the rest of Asia by vast encircling barriers of mountain chains and arid deserts, China has been almost entirely cut off from intercourse with other nations, and in the pride of her very ancient lineage and civilization, and in her wisdom, has ever regarded them with that contempt which is born of contact with inferior races only.

Picture this great hermit nation! The picture has been the same for centuries. At least 300 millions of the phlegmatic "sons of Han" pour through the streets of countless cities, towns, and villages, and cultivate the soil of 18 vast provinces with well-nigh superhuman industry. From one end of China to the other they are all alike—yellow-skinned, black-haired and pigtailed. All speak but one language (in various dialects). All are fast bound by the terrible superstitions of ancestral worship, with an additional combination, usually, of the doctrines of Buddhism and Taoism; while, as Father of

his people, and "Son of Heaven," the Emperor is also the object of worship, as well as homage. His absolute parental and patriarchal authority is delegated to a great army of provincial dignitaries and local officials, many of whom are very corrupt. Education is at a premium, all official appointments being decided (at least in theory) by the results of competitive examination alone. Science and invention remain in their infancy. All foreigners are "barbarians," and are regarded with suspicion, especially by the *literati*. While exceedingly intelligent, the Chinese mind is slow and very narrow in its range. There is little patriotic feeling. The lot of woman is usually a hard and bitter one. The ravages of Opium become increasingly terrible. Over all hangs closely the awful and blighting pall of heathenism, with all its sin, cruelty, misery and shame.

Distinctive Features of the C.I.M.

Thrust forth by the hand of GOD amongst this proud and self-satisfied people, on lines which excluded all possibility of advance apart from faith and absolute dependence upon Himself, the work from the beginning bore a distinctive impress, and its constitution and principles were deeply rooted in the Scriptures.

The Apostolic plan, it was perceived, "was not to raise ways and means, but *to go and do the work*, trusting in his sure word who has said, 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of GOD, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.'" It was also seen that "to obtain successful labourers not elaborate appeals for help, but first, earnest prayer to GOD to thrust forth labourers, and second the

deepening of the spiritual life of the Church, *so that men should be unable to stay at home*, were what was needed."

The following may be mentioned more specifically as some of the distinctive features of the MISSION :—

1. It includes workers of all the leading denominations, and of various nationalities.
2. No salary being guaranteed, the Missionaries trust directly in GOD for the supply of all their needs.

Neither personal solicitation, nor collection of funds is made or authorised by the MISSION, voluntary contributions alone being received.

Development. For the first ten years, while striking its roots and gaining experience, the operations of the MISSION were confined to four provinces. No fewer, however, than 28 churches were formed during this pioneering stage.

With the *second decade* of the MISSION's history, there came both the special Divine leading and the increase of workers necessary for carrying the Gospel to the Interior. Widespread itineration ensued throughout the unoccupied provinces. In many of these all the larger towns and cities were visited, portions of the Scriptures were scattered broadcast, and the Gospel was preached from end to end of China, from the borders of Korea to Li-t'ang and Ba-t'ang in Eastern Tibet, and from Kansuh to Hai-nan. Stations were opened in 7 of the 9 hitherto unoccupied provinces.

Before the *third decade* opened, the MISSION began to enter upon a new stage of development. Having gained a footing in most of the hitherto unoccupied territory, itineration and exploration gave place to a system of consolidation of the results attained. Station work and methodical visitation of smaller

districts around the established centres gradually became the leading features.

The following figures may be added by way of illustration. It is interesting to note that since the beginning of the third decade the number of missionaries and of stations and out-stations has more than trebled, while the number of communicants has increased nearly, and the number of native helpers more than, fivefold.

	At Close of First Decade.	*At Close of Second Decade.*	*At Close of 1898.*
Missionaries	52	225	800 (including Associates)
Native Helpers	75	117	605
Stations & Out-stations	52	106	318
Native Communicants	*twenty-eight churches formed*	1,655	7,927
Total number baptized from beginning ..		2,026	11,597

The income of the MISSION for 1898 was over £60,000. The average income for the first five years was about £5,000.

Branches and Associated Missions.

With the great extension of the area of operations and the number of missionaries at work, there has been a corresponding extension of the area of support and sympathy in the home lands. Branches of the work have sprung up in North America, Australia, and New Zealand, while various Missionary Societies in Germany, Scandinavia, Switzerland, Finland, and Denmark are now associated with the C.I.M. for Work in China.

China's Present Needs and Claims.

The spiritual needs of the Empire are still of the greatest magnitude. Little more than the fringe of the darkness has

after all been touched. The HOLY SPIRIT has, however, been working wonderfully in the hearts of the people of GOD, but how utterly insignificant, amongst 300 millions of heathen, are the 2,700 Protestant missionaries (men and women) now in China! In all parts, but specially in the Interior, millions remain unreached.

We speak lightly of *millions*, and the numbers signified—immortal souls all, sunk in the darkness, despair and death of heathenism—are beyond our mental grasp. Our personal responsibility with regard to them is likewise infinitely great, for we have done but little yet to obey the simple and clear command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to *every creature*." There are many accumulating indications that GOD is about to do "a new thing" in China. In, perhaps, a deeper way than ever before the fallow ground there is being broken up, while in this country it is evident that we are on the eve of an altogether new spiritual and missionary movement. Into every cleansed and yielded heart the HOLY GHOST will come in power and light, in order to make us—as only thus we can be made—*fellow labourers* with GOD.

Qualifications for Missionary Work.

Briefly, the worker must be called of GOD to the work. He (or she) must have had at least an ordinary English education, should be a diligent student of Scripture, be possessed of sound health and common sense, and, above all, should be "full of faith and of the HOLY GHOST."

NEWINGTON GREEN, LONDON, N.

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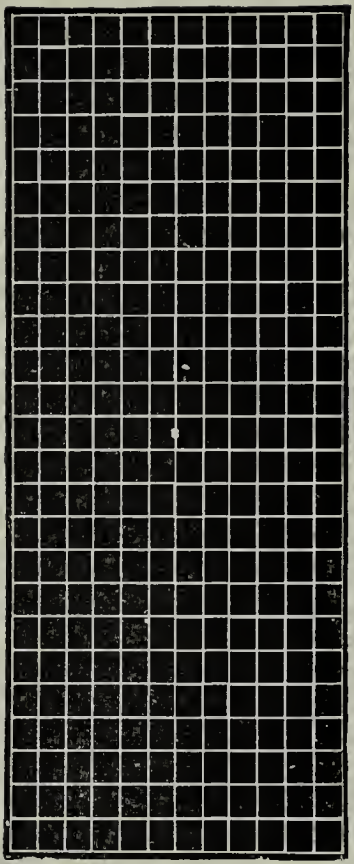

The population of China, taking the low estimate of 300 millions, is represented by the above diagram, each square representing one million souls.

One twelfth of one square would more than cover all the Church Members of all the Protestant Missions in China.

China's Millions. The Organ of the Mission. Monthly. Illustrated. 1d.

May be had from the Offices of the Mission.